



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/697,499	10/27/2000	Junichi Kimizuka	35.C14958	3514
5514	7590	01/27/2006	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			LAMB, TWYLER MARIE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/697,499	Applicant(s) KIMIZUKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Twyler M. Lamb	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 21- 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abe et al. (Abe) (US 5,140,349).

With regard to claims 21 and 31, Abe discloses an image formation apparatus (Figure 8, laser printer) comprising: a recording unit adapted to provide a first mode for recording an image based on an image data from a first input device (col 14, lines 44-55; col 22, lines 24-49), and a second mode for recording an image based on a image data 44-55) input from a second input device (col 14, lines 44-55; col 22, lines 24-49); a masking unit adapted to mask the image to be recorded by said recording unit, so as to provide a sheet-edge margin; and a control unit adapted to variably control a size of a masking area of a sheet-edge margin, based at least in part on a selected mode of said recording unit (col 26, lines 41-49).

With regard to claims 22 and 32, Abe discloses wherein said plural input units include at least a reading unit adapted to read an original image (col 22,

Art Unit: 2622

lines 41-49), and a reception unit adapted to receive the image data from a host computer (col 22, lines 24-35).

With regard to claims 23 and 33, Abe discloses wherein said control unit expands an image area up to the vicinity of a sheet edge by reducing the masking area of said masking unit when the image is recorded based on the image signal from said reception unit (col 22, lines 24-35; col 26, lines 41-49).

With regard to claims 24 and 34, Abe discloses further comprising a permitting unit adapted to permit said control unit to reduce the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image signal input from said reception unit, and adapted to inhibit said control unit from reducing the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image data read by said reading unit (col 22, lines 24-35; col 26, lines 41-49).

With regard to claims 25 and 35, Abe discloses an image formation apparatus (Figure 8, laser printer) comprising: a reading unit adapted to read an original image (col 22, lines 41-49), and a reception unit adapted to receive the image data from a host computer (col 22, lines 24-35); a recording unit adapted to provide a first mode for recording an image based on an image data from a first input device (col 14, lines 44-55; col 22, lines 24-49), and a second mode for recording an image based on a image data 44-55) input from a second input device (col 14, lines 44-55; col 22, lines 24-49); a masking unit adapted to mask the image to be recorded by said recording unit, so as to provide a sheet-edge margin; and a control unit adapted to variably control a size of a masking area of

Art Unit: 2622

a sheet-edge margin, based at least in part on a selected mode of said recording unit (col 26, lines 41-49).

With regard to claims 26 and 36, Abe discloses further comprising: a masking control unit adapted to control, in order to expand an image area up to the vicinity of a sheet edge by reducing the masking area of said masking unit when the image is recorded based on the image signal from said reception unit (col 26, lines 41-49); and a permitting unit adapted to permit the reduction of the masking amount only when the image is recorded based on the image data input by said reception unit (col 26, lines 41-49).

With regard to claims 27 and 37, Abe discloses wherein said masking unit comprises a masking signal generation unit adapted to generate a masking signal (Figure 34-3; col 26, lines 50-55), and a logical calculation unit adapted to perform logical calculation to the image signal and the masking signal generated by said masking signal generation unit (col 26, line 56 – col 28, line 3).

With regard to claims 28 and 38, Abe discloses wherein said recording unit comprises a semiconductor laser (Figure 10, semiconductor laser 109), a scanning unit (Figure 10, scanner rotation control CCT 102, scanner driver 105; col 16, lines 17-63) adapted to scan a laser beam generated by said semiconductor laser (col 16, lines 17-63), and a detection unit adapted to detect the laser beam scanned by said scanning unit (col 1, lines 59-68; col 3, line 66 – col 4, line 2; col 23, lines 66-68).

Art Unit: 2622

With regard to claims 29 and 39, Abe discloses wherein said masking unit masks the laser beam in a main scanning direction and a sub scanning directions of the laser beam (col 26, line 41 – col 28, line 3).

With regard to claims 30 and 40, Abe discloses wherein said masking unit controls masking in a main scanning direction on the basis of a detection signal of said detection unit (col 23, lines 66-68; col 26, line 41 – col 28, line 3).

With regard to claims 41 and 45, Abe discloses an image forming apparatus comprising: plural lasers (Figure 10, semiconductor laser 109) adapted to emit laser beam (col 16, lines 60-62), a scanning unit (Figure 10, scanner rotation control CCT 102, scanner driver 105; col 16, lines 17-63) adapted to scan a laser beam generated by said semiconductor laser (col 16, lines 17-63), an input unit (host computer 300) adapted to input image data each corresponding to the plural laser beams (col 22, lines 24-35); and a generation unit adapted to generate plural masking signals, each to control light emission of a corresponding one of the plural lasers, wherein the plural masking signals are generated by said generation unit at mutually independent timings (Figure 34-3; col 26, lines 50-55).

With regard to claims 42 and 46, Abe discloses further comprising a detection unit adapted to detect the laser beam scanned, so as to generate a sync signal (col 1, lines 59-68; col 3, line 66 – col 4, line 2; col 23, lines 66-68).

With regard to claims 43 and 47, Abe discloses wherein said generation unit adapted to generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of each

Art Unit: 2622

of the plural laser beams detected by said detection unit (Figure 34-3; col 26, lines 50-55).

With regard to claims 44 and 48, Abe discloses wherein said generation unit adapted to generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of the single laser beam detected by said detection unit (Figure 34-3; col 26, lines 50-55).

Response to Arguments

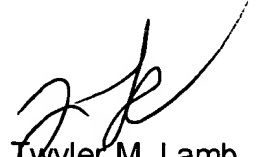
3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Twyler M. Lamb whose telephone number is 571-272-7406. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon, Tues and Thurs 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Twyler M. Lamb
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622